
National Weather Service Indianapolis NEWS

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Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium - March 1, 2008

What is a supercell? What are CAPE, helicity, and wind shear? What really goes on behind the scenes in a TV weather studio? What do those colored blobs on the radar screen actually mean? All these questions and more will be answered at the upcoming second Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium.

The Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, sponsor of the symposium, is co-hosting this event with the National Weather Service from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 2008. The symposium will be held at the Valle Vista Conference Center, 755 East Main Street, Greenwood, Indiana.

The symposium will provide advanced information for storm spotters and weather enthusiasts on topics relevant to storm spotters in the field, such as recognition of storm types and their main hazards, the interpretation and use of mesoscale analysis parameters, and radar data interpretation, as well as providing perspectives from NWS partners in the severe weather warning process.

“We trust that spotters will find the topics of discussion relevant to them, and that the information presented will help them expand their already fundamental involvement in the severe weather warning process,” said NWS Indianapolis Warning Coordination Meteorologist Dave Tucek.

This advanced spotter workshop will include speakers from academia, media, homeland security, the National Weather Service, and the volunteer spotters community. “Amateur radio operators are the backbone of severe weather spotting operations,” said Mark Shaffer, Central Indiana SkyWarn coordinator. “Our reports, all reports really, are critical in the National Weather Service warning decision process,” said Shaffer.

Confirmed speakers at this time include NWS Indianapolis meteorologists, as well as WISH-TV 8 meteorologist Angela Buchman, Delaware County Emergency Management Director Bill Gosnell, and College of DuPage Professor Paul Sirvatka.

This symposium is open to the public. Details on the symposium, offered at nominal cost, can be found at: weather.gov/indy.